

REMARKS

I. PRELIMINARY REMARKS

Minor modifications have been made to the specification. Claim 68 has been amended. No claims have been added. Claims 1-19, 25, 26, 64 and 67 have been canceled. Claims 20, 21, 24, 43-48, 50-54, 65, 66 and 68 remain in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

The Office Action indicated that claims 20, 21, 24, 43-48, 50-54, 65 and 66 have been allowed and that claim 68, which has been rewritten in independent form, is directed to patentable subject matter.

II. OBJECTION TO THE SPECIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(D)(1)

The specification has been objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(d)(1) for purportedly failing to explicitly state what structure, material and acts perform the function recited in the mean-plus-function element in claim 64. Applicant respectfully submits that the objection has been obviated by the amendment above to the specification and should be withdrawn. More specifically, during a telephonic interview with the undersigned representative on February 21, 2006, the Examiner indicated that the word "means" should be used in the relevant portion of the specification. Although applicant maintains that there is no such requirement in the Statute, Rules or MPEP, applicant has amended the specification in order to place this application in condition for allowance.

III. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 11, 17-19, 25, 26, 64 and 67 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by the Webster patent (U.S. Patent No. 5,431,168). As claims 1,

2, 4, 5, 11, 17-19, 25, 26, 64 and 67 have been canceled, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 has been rendered moot.¹

IV. CLOSING REMARKS

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the application are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is courteously solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call applicant's undersigned representative at (310) 563-1458 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0638. Should such fees be associated with an extension of time, applicant respectfully requests that this paper be considered a petition therefor.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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¹ Applicant notes for the record that the cancellation of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 11, 17-19, 25, 26, 64 and 67 is not an acquiescence to the rejections. Instead, the claims have been canceled in order to expedite issuance of the remaining claims.